Solo Leveling

Art · DUBU(REDICE STUDIO)
Original Novel · Chugong
Story · h-goon

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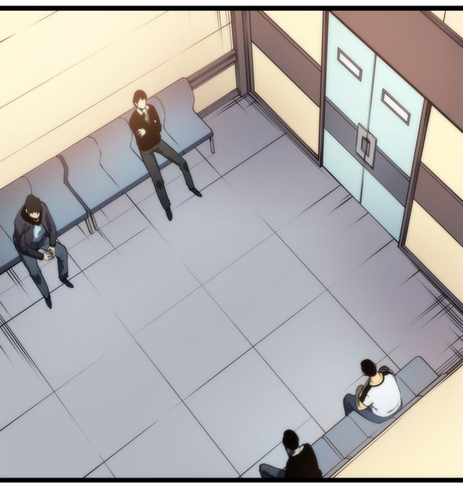


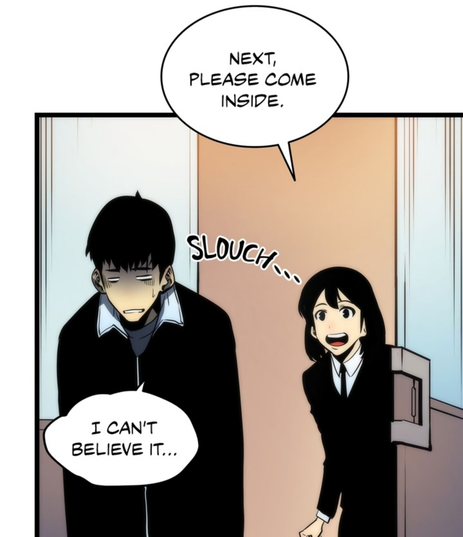
SOME PEOPLE TURN THEIR LIVES AROUND AFTER GETTING A NEW RANK, BUT THE MAJORITY DON'T.

IN FACT, ALL THE HUNTERS WHO GET PLACED IN D-RANK ARE SCOUTED BY THOSE AGENTS OVER THERE.
AGENTS?

YEAH, THEY'RE FROM DIFFERENT GUILDS.
BUT THEY'RE FROM THE ONES THAT DON'T GET A LOT OF APPLICANTS, SO THEY WAIT HERE AND TRY TO RECRUIT NEWLY EVALUATED HUNTERS.

YOU'RE BETTER OFF STAYING AWAY FROM GUILDS LIKE THAT, THOUGH.
I HEARD THAT SMALL GUILDS GO ON A LOT OF DANGEROUS RAIDS, SO THE MORTALITY RATE IS SUPER HIGH.
I GUESS THAT'S TO BE EXPECTED, SINCE SMALL GUILDS DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT FOOTING.

THEY PROBABLY AREN'T SATISFIED WITH TARGETING LOW-RANKING DUNGEONS LIKE PRIVATE STRIKE SQUADS DO,
BUT THEY DON'T HAVE THE SKILLS TO RAID HIGH-RANKING DUNGEONS, EITHER. THAT'S WHY THEY GET INTO SO MANY ACCIDENTS.
THERE WEREN'T ANY BACK IN MY DAY...


NEXT, PLEASE COME INSIDE.
SLOUCH...
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...

NO NEED TO BE NERVOUS. JUST LOWER YOUR EXPECTATIONS.
AS LONG AS YOU DON'T GET PLACED IN E-RANK, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE A BASIC LIVING.

IF I GET INTO A MAJOR GUILD, I'LL GET A DOWN PAYMENT AFTER SIGNING THE CONTRACT.
MAYBE I CAN FINALLY PAY OFF MY DEBT WITH THAT MONEY,
NIBBLE
NIBBLE
AND LIVE WITH MY DAUGHTER AGAIN.

MANY PEOPLE'S LIVES CHANGE DUE TO THEIR RANK.

A HUNTER'S RANK DETERMINES HOW POWERFUL THEY ARE.

A HUNTER COULD SPEND YEARS PRACTICING SWORD FIGHTING AND BUILDING UP THEIR BODY,

BUT THE DIFFERENCE IN RANKS CANNOT BE EASILY OVERCOME.

THERE ARE HUGE DIFFERENCES IN INCOME AS WELL.

MR. SONG WAS AN EXPERIENCED

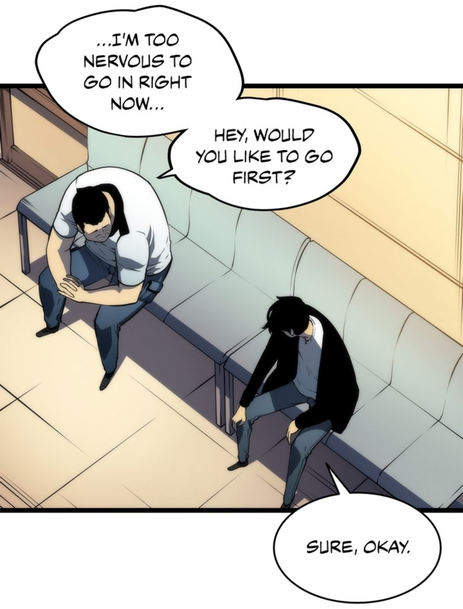
SWORDSMAN,
BUT HIS SKILLS WERE NO MATCH FOR KANG TAESHIK, WHO HAD A HIGHER RANK.
THE SAME GOES FOR ME. I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO RISE ABOVE MY RANK EVEN THOUGH I'VE BEEN GOING ON RAIDS FOR YEARS.
CLENCH

BUT THINGS ARE DIFFERENT NOW...!

GLOOM

I, I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M AN E-RANK...
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
NEXT, PLEASE COME INSIDE.

IS SOMETHING WRONG, SIR? ARE YOU FEELING SICK?
NO, BUT...


...I'M TOO NERVOUS TO GO IN RIGHT NOW...
HEY, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO FIRST?
SURE, OKAY.

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
MY NAME IS SUNG JINWOO.

OH? HE'S ALREADY BEEN EVALUATED. HE AWAKENED AS AN E-RANK.
ARE YOU HERE FOR A RE-EVALUATION?
YES.

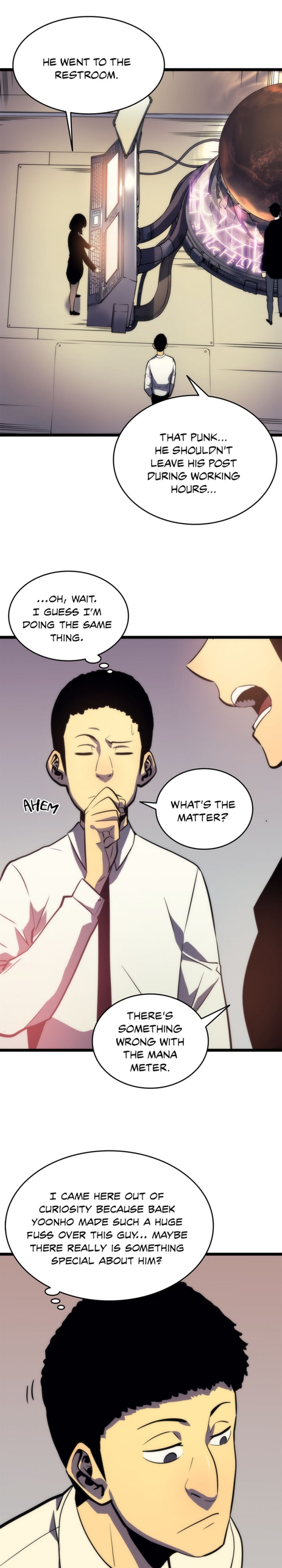
ALL THE HUNTERS WHO COME IN FOR A RE-EVALUATION ARE E-RANK. GEEZ...
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS PLACE YOUR HAND ON THAT BLACK ORB AND WAIT.

WOOM

WHAT'S GOING ON?
COULD IT BE AN ERROR?
BEEP
BEEP
PLEASE WAIT JUST A MOMENT.
LET ME RESTART THE PROCESS.

HUH? THIS HAS NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE.
I'M SORRY. LET ME TRY ONE MORE TIME.
BEEP
BEEP

WHAT THE HECK IS WRONG WITH THIS MACHINE?
PRESS
PRESS
WHY ARE YOU OPERATING THE MANA METER BY YOURSELF? WHERE'S CHANGSHIK?


HE WENT TO THE RESTROOM.
THAT PUNK... HE SHOULDN'T LEAVE HIS POST DURING WORKING HOURS...
...OH, WAIT. I GUESS I'M DOING THE SAME THING.
AHEM
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH THE MANA METER.
I CAME HERE OUT OF CURIOSITY BECAUSE BAEK YOONHO MADE SUCH A HUGE FUSS OVER THIS GUY... MAYBE THERE REALLY IS SOMETHING SPECIAL ABOUT HIM?

NAH, WHAT AM I SAYING? A REAWAKENING IS NOT THAT COMMON.

I THINK IT WAS AROUND THREE MONTHS AGO...

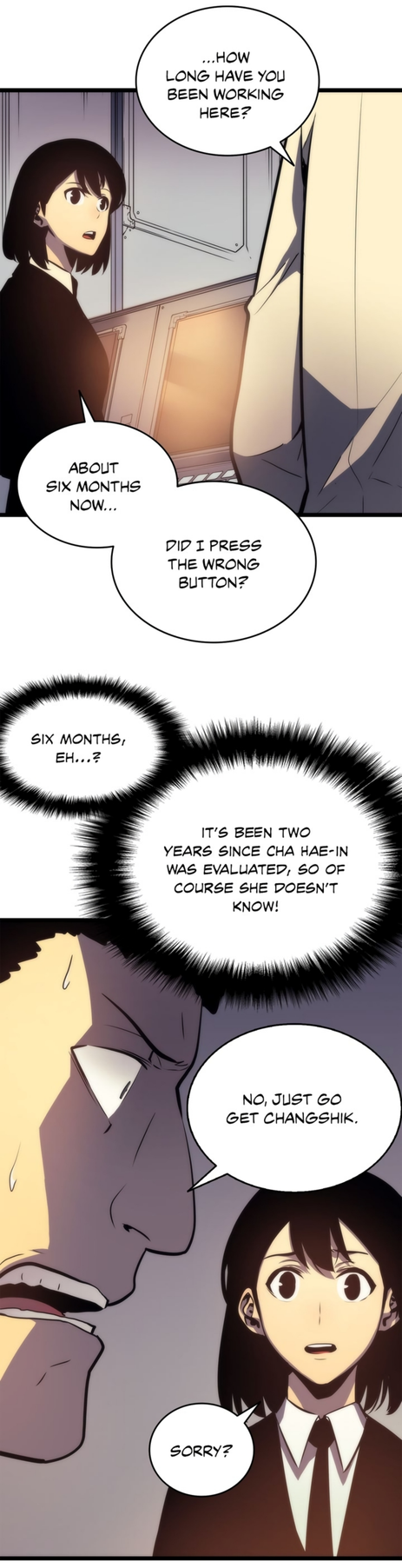
EVERYONE AT THE ASSOCIATION FREAKED OUT WHEN AN E-RANK HUNTER WAS SUSPECTED TO HAVE REAWAKENED. THE MANAGER OF THE SURVEILLANCE TEAM WENT TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER HIMSELF,

BUT IT TURNED OUT TO BE A FALSE ALARM.

SEE? I KEEP GETTING THIS ERROR MESSAGE.

ERROR.

THERE ARE LOADS OF PEOPLE WHO COME IN THINKING THEY'VE REAWAKENED, BUT JUST END UP WASTING THEIR MONEY ON THE TEST FEES AGAIN...


...HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING HERE?
ABOUT SIX MONTHS NOW...
DID I PRESS THE WRONG BUTTON?

SIX MONTHS, EH...?
IT'S BEEN TWO YEARS SINCE CHA HAE-IN WAS EVALUATED, SO OF COURSE SHE DOESN'T KNOW!
NO, JUST GO GET CHANGSHIK.
SORRY?

EVEN I FAILED TO NOTICE UNTIL NOW. THIS IS WHY I NEVER GET PROMOTED!
I DON'T CARE IF HE'S USING THE RESTROOM. JUST GO GET HIM!

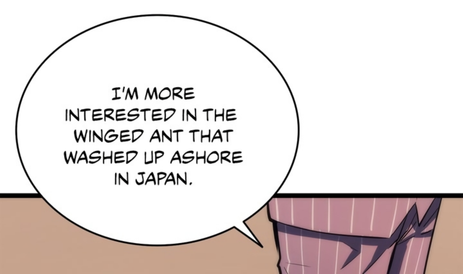
BUT HE'S IN THE MEN'S RESTROOM...!
WH, WHAT'S GOING ON, MR. JUNG?
THIS ISN'T JUST AN ERROR. THE MANA METER IS INCAPABLE OF EVALUATING HIM! DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS?
IT MEANS THAT OUR METER ISN'T POWERFUL ENOUGH TO MEASURE HIS MANA LEVELS!
WHAT? TH, THEN COULD HE BE...?

HE'S AN S-RANK.

MR. WOO.
ABOUT MR. HWANG'S SUDDEN VISIT TO KOREA...
IS IT TRUE THAT HE DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE RECENT RED GATE INCIDENT?
YES, HWANG DONGSOO IS NOT THE HUNTER WHO HELPED THE SURVIVORS.
I CAN ASSURE YOU, SIR. I WAS THERE THAT DAY.
SO THAT MEANS YOU KNOW WHO IT ACTUALLY WAS.

NO,

THE RESULTS WERE CONCLUSIVE. WHY AM I THINKING ABOUT THAT AGAIN...



SO FAR, IT'S JUST ONE CORPSE, BUT IF WINGED ANTS COULD INDEED FLY TO OTHER COUNTRIES FROM JEJU ISLAND...
NO, ACTUALLY, EVEN BEFORE THAT HAPPENS, HUNTERS FROM EVERY GUILD WILL BE DRAFTED.

I SEE.
ALL OF US FROM THE HUNTERS GUILD WILL COOPERATE.

OH, THERE SEEMS TO BE QUITE A BIT OF NOISE COMING FROM BUILDING B TODAY.
FROM BUILDING B, SIR?
I DON'T HEAR ANYTHING...

I'M A LITTLE SENSITIVE TO THESE THINGS.
IT'S PROBABLY A HUNTER CAUSING A SCENE DURING THEIR EVALUATION.
I'LL GO AND CHECK.

NO.
CHSSS
I WANT TO SEE FOR MYSELF.

IS HE PICKING UP ON SOMETHING AGAIN?

BECAUSE HE HAS SUCH A GENTLE FACE,

I FORGOT WHO HE WAS FOR A MOMENT.

LET ME JOIN YOU.

UM... ACCORDING TO THE MACHINE, YOUR...

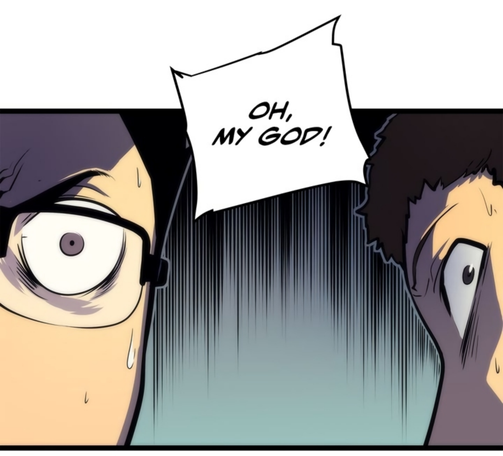
I MEAN, MR. SUNG, YOUR MANA LEVELS ARE UNMEASURABLE.

A PENDING EVALUATION!

BUT MAYBE THIS IS A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY.
SHOULD I JUST GO AND ASK HIM?!

H...HEY, PLEASE EVALUATE ME, TOO!
UH... ALL RIGHT!

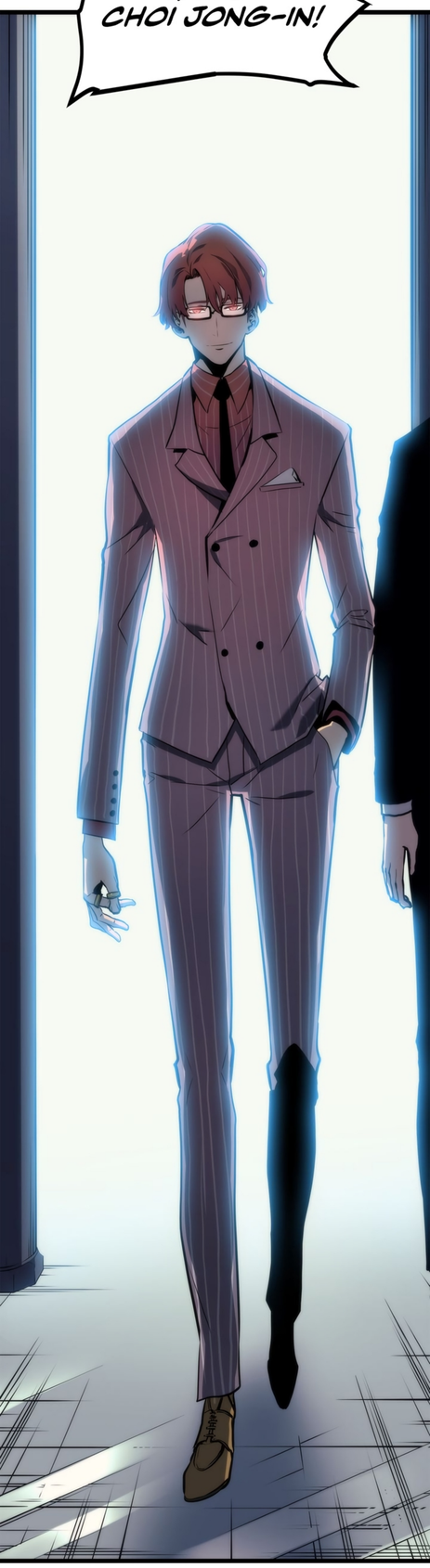
I HAVE THE POWER OF PERSUASION THAT'S SECOND TO NONE...
DOES OUR GUILD EVEN HAVE ENOUGH FUNDS TO RECRUIT AN S-RANK HUNTER...?!
HUH? IS THAT...?!


OH, MY GOD!

HE'S THE MASTER OF KOREA'S FINEST GUILD,

THE "HUNTERS"!!

I, IT'S CHOI JONG-IN!



WHAT IS "THE ULTIMATE HUNTER" DOING HERE?!

CHOI JONG-IN (S-RANK)
MASTER OF THE HUNTERS GUILD

HUNTERS

-A GUILD THAT IS ACTIVE IN THE SEOUL METROPOLITAN AREA.
-THE ONLY GUILD OUT OF ALL FIVE MAJOR SOUTH KOREAN GUILDS TO HAVE RECRUITED TWO S-RANK HUNTERS.

To Be Continued...

D&C WEBTOON

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